

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Saturday, September 2. 1710.

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**A**ND now, Gentlemen, having told you, that I am come in to Acknowledge the Doctrine of Hereditary Right — Before you boast of me too much, as a Convert, give me leave to explain my self.

I gave you in my last, an Abridgment of Mr. *Asgill's* Scheme, of the *Hereditary Right* of the Kings of *Israel*, who tho' they frequently succeeded over the Heads of the Eldest Branch, were nevertheless Hereditary by vertue of the great Entail of the Crown, upon the Tribe of *Judab*; by which, *not this* or *that* Branch, had the Entail fix'd upon special to them, but the whole Tribe, exclusive of all the rest of the

Tribes; so that every Member of that Tribe, had a Capacity of Inheriting, as well as the Elder Branch, and God reserv'd the Nomination in himself, as in the Case of the House of *Jesse*, who was of the Younger Branch of the House of *Judab*, of *David*, who was the Youngest Son of *Eight*, in the House of *Jesse*, and of *Solomon*, who was a Younger Son of the House of *David*, and the like.

And why should we differ any longer about Words, and Quarrel about Circumstances, let us see, not how far asunder we can go, but how near together we can come — It is easie enough to find out what we differ in; but where's the Man  
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that tries how far we can agree? This would be the Way to heal us — While the other Temper makes us all but *State-Tinkers*, who pretending to mend one Breach, make two.

Our Brethren the *Hereditary-Right Men*, own the *Legal Provision*, made by Parliament; they own, or else *Vae! vobis-Hypocrite*, the Parliamentary Limitation of the Crown, to the House of *Hannover*, tho' it cuts off the Elder Branches, of the Houses of *Savoy*, *Orleans*, &c. Let the Addressors speak, whether they do, or not: On the other Hand, we own the Hereditary Claim of the Queen, within the said Parliamentary Limitations; What is it then that we differ about? I profess solemnly I see nothing between us, but that we all mean the same thing, only cannot be so Complaisant to our own ease, as to express our selves the same Way.

Let us see then, if we can bring these differing Systems to speak the same Language, that our Lectures of Politicks, being not read in an unknown Tongue, they that occupy the Place of the unlearned, may know when to say *Amen* to them — And that Trumpet of the State, giving a more certain Sound, all Men may know when to prepare themselves for Peace or War.

I shall go back in my next, to search into the great Charter of the *English Crown* — Perhaps it may not be found so very Authentick, as to be declar'd from Heaven, equal to that of *Israel*, by the Voice of *Jacob*, and by the immediate Direction of God himself, to the Prophets *Samuel* and *Nathan* — But the undisputed Inheritance of the Royal Family of *England*, from *Edgar* the first *British Monarch*, having a prescription of above 1300 Years, this *Fox Populi*, will be allow'd to pass for *Vox Dei*; nor will there be any need to Debate it, or search farther for its divine Original, a difficulty I leave to those that pretend to it: I choose another Foundation, equally subservient to the Ends of Government, and equally entitling the Possessor of the Crown to our Allegiance; and this I call the Laws of the Land — I state it thus.

The ROYAL FAMILY of *Britain*,

having the Crown entail'd by the Laws, the Inheritance is to them, and to every of them; and they have an undoubted Right to the Possession, (upon such Terms, and Subjected to such a Tenure only, as is contain'd in the said Entail.) By this Entail the Crown is settled upon the Family indeed, but is not thereby Limited to this or that Branch of the Royal Line, but every individual Person of the Blood Royal, has a Capacity of Inheriting, and the Right of Nominating to that Inheritance, is reserv'd in the Parliament — The Crown is nevertheless an Inheritance; the Parliament of *Britain* having a reserv'd Right of Limiting the Descendants to the Possession — and this is what I mean by *Parliamentary Hereditary Rights*.

Now I desire all the Clan of *Fure-Divino* Bigotts, to offer me an exception to this, as to Fact; or to prove that this is not the only Hereditary Right, our Crown can claim, and this indeed is enough; this is what we call *Constitution* — And this is what our Addressors mean, if they mean any thing; When at one end they talk of the Queen's Sacred-Hereditary Title to the Crown, and at the other end talk of Adhering to the Protestant Succession — Which is indeed reconcileable to this System; and I am persuaded, I may say without Arrogance, can be reconciled no other Way.

As for those, who would fain understand *Hereditary Right* to signify Descent by a *Right Line*, a Phrase much in use in the time of the Famous *Bill of Exclusion*, and found very useless soon after — Her Majesty will be less Angry with me, for saying she makes no such Claim, than with them, for saying no other Claim can be Legally made.

It is evident, the Queen was actually Queen, in her Capacity of Succeeding, while her Father was alive, and had the Crown fallen by the Demise of King *William*, King *James* being yet alive, Her Majesty had been our Lawful Rightful Sovereign, by the same *Hereditary Title*, that she is now; the Reason is plain, for that the Parliament, in whom the Right of Limiting the Inheritance



tance is plac'd, had Nominated her Majesty to Inherit, with a *non-obstante* to her Father, or any other of his Children, whether Males or Females being then alive.

This is rather evident, by the Deed of Settlement, made by the Nation at the Revolution; wherein there is no new Entail of the Crown — (Whether there was a Right in the Convention to have made a new Entail, or not, is not the present Question) But the Old Entail is follow'd, and the Right of the Royal Family to the Crown, being own'd as the Foundation, the Remainders of the Inheritance are declar'd by the Parliament, (in whom the Right of Declaring those Remainders, is allowed to be) to such and such Branches, as by their Act of Limitation does appear — And these Branches thus Inherit, and if you will have the Word (Hereditary) you shall, they become *Hereditary Descendants* to the Crown, by *Authority of Parliament* — And what is this but PARLIAMENTARY HEREDITARY RIGHT, as I call'd it before?

And now, pray Gentlemen, What are we falling out about? How are we making Men Offenders by Words? How are we *Darkning Counsel by Words without Knowledge*? 'Tis all the same thing, mean't by either Side, but dully and darkly express'd to *Dumfound* one another, and puzzle a Cause, which in itself, is the plainest in the World — If therefore you have a Mind to differ for Trifles, you must; but *who is for Peace, let him come in hiser* — Here is a Method of Reconciliation, both Sides come over to both Sides; the Negatives and Affirmatives meet, the Extreams Kiss, the Opposites shake Hands, and we are all one again, if you please: If you will not agree now, *Mark them that sow Divisions*.

You *Tories* say, the Queen has an Hereditary Right to the Crown — Well, we *Whigs* say, the Queen has a *Parliamentary Hereditary Right* to the Crown — *Vice Versa*.

We *Whigs* say, the Parliament has a Right of Limiting the Succession of the

Crown, and therefore we own the Settlement on the House of *Hannover*: You *Tories* say, you acknowledge and adhere to the Succession of the House of *Hannover*, and therefore you own the Right of Parliament to limit the Succession.

And where is our Difference now? That we should fall out at this Mad rate? — What are we Scolding for, and Brangling about? — We have a fine House, and we all agree such a one is, and shall live in it, Proprietor, but the Family cannot agree, whether he shall go in at the Fore-Door, or at the Back-Door; and so while all are willing he should go in, and Dwell in it — Yet the peaceable Possession is interrupted for that Trifling Debate.

If any Man will differ with me after this, about *Parliamentary Right* and *Hereditary*; I shall only desire him to tell me first, Which is farthest, from the *Exchange* to *Whitehall*, or from *Whitehall* to the *Exchange*? — A difficulty that can't be express'd, is no difficulty — My Answer is short; *Parliamentary Right* is *Hereditary*, and *Hereditary Right* is *Parliamentary*, and her Majesty is our Rightful Queen by both — He that expressly denies her either of these, is Guilty of Treason by the Act of Parliament, Entitled an Act for the better securing her Majesty's Person and Government, and ought to be Hang'd for a Traytor — And I say, *Curat Lex*.

Thus Foolish have we been, and as Beasts in this Case; Bullying our Sovereign with what *is*, or *is not* her Majesty's Title, till we have made our selves a Sport, and a Laughing-Stock to them, who say *she has no Title at all* — Nor can this Dispute be a Service to any Body else, for nothing can tend more to make the Pretender's Claim clear, than to make the Queen's obscure; nothing can tend more to make *Jacobitism* easie, than to make the Queen's Right difficult to explain.

The System I have laid down, brings the Thing to a Point; there's now but one Debate left, and that we are all willing to have left; and there we must all be on one Side against the *Jacobites*, viz. Whether the *Parliament* has a Right to Limit the Descendants.



scendants to the Inheritance, or whether the Crown must, *Fare Divino*, Descend in a Right Line, in spite of unqualifying Circumstances.

This is the true Debate, between *Facobitism* and *Revolution* — 'Tis hard we should have any other Debate; the Parliament has set Queen *Ann* on the Throne, in Contravention of this Opinion of Descent by Right Line, and I doubt not the whole Power of *Britain* will Maintain her there — Her Right is made Hereditary by Authority of Parliament, the Entail remains special to the Family still, and is so far Hereditary — 'Tis only limited in the Person of the Queen by Parliamentary Authority — Thus upon the Demise of the Queen, and on default of Issue by her Majesty, the Remainder is Limited and Declar'd to Descend to the House of *Hannover* — And after it is Limited in the Line of *Hannover*, to such only as shall be Protestants; and in Default of such, the Inheritance may again be declar'd by the same Authority, in Bar of any Right of Line, and with a *non-obstante* to any Claim of the immediate Heir — To such, or such, as that Parliament shall Determine, only keeping to the Ge-

neral Entail on the Blood Royal — And still this Descent is an Inheritance, and the Descent of the Estate may be call'd Hereditary — And so we will, by my Consent, differ no more about Words — But her Majesty is own'd by us all, to have a Parliamentary Hereditary Right to the Crown.

I had purpos'd here, to have run through our *English* History, to have shewn you how many intersecions of the immediate Line of Descent have been made, by Parliamentary Authority in this Kingdom; And how far Parliamentary Authority has always Interpos'd, between the Right Line, and the other Branches of the Blood Royal, in the Inheritance of the Crown — All which have been adjudg'd Legal by Parliament; and the Title of the Princes so Reigning, might still in this Sense be call'd Hereditary — All which serve only to tell us, that Parliamentary Limitation, does not destroy Hereditary Right, or Hereditary Right destroy Parliamentary Limitation, but both together make the firmest Title in the World, under this new United Name of a *Crown Parliamentarily Hereditary*.

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